

XXXIII.—*The Report on the British Museum for 1909* \*.

WE have received a copy of the official Report on the British Museum for the year 1909, which contains a statement of the progress effected in the arrangement and description of the collections in the Natural History Museum at South Kensington, and an account of the additions made to it in that year.

It is stated that preparations illustrating the classification of Birds have been added to the exhibited series, and we may call special attention to the specimens of the structure of the Order Ratitæ, which are exhibited in the first compartment on the right-hand side of the entrance to the Bird-Gallery. It will be observed that the Tinamous are placed in that Order here.

The mounted series of Birds exhibited in the British Saloon has now been completed, and this, we are told, is largely due to the generosity of Mr. Rowland Ward, who has presented beautifully mounted examples of a large number of species.

The mounting of the series in the General Gallery has also been continued, and the old and faded specimens of the following families have been replaced by finely mounted examples, the work of Mr. Rowland Ward :—*Galbulidæ*, *Bucconidæ*, and a considerable number of Dendrocolaptine Birds. The Gould Collection of Humming-Birds, with the exception of the cases on the main staircase, has been removed from the East Corridor to the Vestibule leading from the Central Hall to the Fish Gallery. The vestibule has been fitted with shelves for the reception of smaller cases, and the whole series is in course of being re-labelled on a new and improved plan. New and revised editions of the 'Guide to the Gallery of Birds' and 'Guide to the Nesting Series of British Birds' have been published. Much assistance has been received from Mr. David A. Bannerman, who has spent many weeks naming, registering, labelling, and incorporating specimens.

\* For an account of the Report for 1908, see 'Ibis,' 1909, p. 691.

He has also written a paper on a large collection of birds formed by Mr. G. W. Bury in N.E. Somaliland.

Good additions have been made to the osteological series, and among them many preparations of the skulls of nestling birds. Much curatorial work has also been necessary in this part of the collection. The arrangement of the specimens in spirit is unsatisfactory, owing to the lack of adequate space for storing them.

The accessions to the Bird-collection during the past year were 4430 in number. Of these, the most noteworthy were as follows :—

One hundred and eighty birds from Cyprus (collected by Mr. C. B. Horsbrugh); obtained by purchase. Thirty-six birds and fifteen eggs from Corsica; collected and presented by Major Trevelyan. Five hundred and twenty-three birds from Turkestan (collected by Mr. Douglas Carruthers); purchased. Sixty-six birds and thirty-six skeletons from Asia Minor (collected by M. A. Robert); purchased. Four hundred and ninety birds from Manchuria; purchased. Twenty-two birds from the Philippine Islands, including examples of ten species new to the Collection; purchased. Fifty-two birds from Christmas Island, Indian Ocean (collected by Dr. C. W. Andrews); presented by Sir John Murray, K.C.B., F.R.S. Thirty-eight birds from Central Formosa, including a male example of the very rare Pheasant *Calophasis mikado*, collected by Dr. A. Moltrecht; purchased. One hundred and nine birds from the Five-finger Mountains, Hainan (including the types of *Pitta douglasi* and *Tephrodornis hainanus*); collected and presented by Mr. Robert Douglas. Two hundred and thirty-four birds from Travancore, collected and presented by Surgeon-Major W. Fry. Fourteen birds and one hundred and thirty-nine eggs from the Andaman Islands (collected by Mr. B. B. Osmaston); purchased. Five hundred birds from Angola (collected by Dr. W. J. Ansorge); purchased. One hundred and twelve birds from Cameroon (collected by Mr. G. L. Bates); purchased. Fifty-two birds, one nest, and four eggs from the Orange River Colony; presented by Mr. Donald Gunn. Seven

hundred and twenty-five birds from N.W. Rhodesia, including the type of *Paludipasser locustella*, a new genus and species, discovered by Mr. Sheffield A. Neave; purchased. Fourteen birds from South America, including examples of ten species new to the Collection; presented by the Director of the Goeldi Museum, Para. Seventy-five birds from Venezuela (collected by Mr. J. Wayman); purchased. The type of *Troglodytes cobbi*, two nests, and thirty-four eggs from the Falkland Islands; collected and presented by Mr. A. F. Cobb. Thirty birds from South America; presented by Lady Gipps. Sixty birds from Australia; presented by Lady Gipps. One hundred and thirty-nine eggs and two nests from Australia (collected by Mr. T. Carter); purchased. One hundred and twenty birds from Bougainville Island and New Guinea (collected by Mr. A. S. Meek); purchased. Forty-nine birds from New Zealand (collected by Mr. Robin Kemp); purchased.

---

XXXIV.—*Boyd Alexander and his Ornithological Work.*  
By W. R. OGILVIE-GRANT, F.Z.S., M.B.O.U.

(Plate XII.)

THE news of the tragic fate of Boyd Alexander, which reached London on the 24th of May, must have caused profound regret over the whole civilised world, as he was well known through his achievements both as a daring traveller and an accomplished writer. By none, however, will his loss be more deeply and truly mourned than by the British Ornithologists' Union, of which he was a distinguished and highly popular member. His charming personality and his character, so delightfully simple and so extraordinarily brave, endeared him to all who knew him, and his useful and valuable life could ill be spared. The first report of his death contained few details, but the news having come through official sources left no room for doubt that he had met with a violent end on the 2nd of April, while travelling on the confines of Wadai to the